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ROEDER

STATION : Heidelberg

REPORT NO. : MGH-1219  
(HSC-78)

OFFICER : [ ]  
SOURCE : Manfred ROEDER

REPORT DATE : 24 April 1947

EVALUATION: F-3

INFORMATION DATE: 1919-1947

REFERENCE : MGH-1918 (H SC-77)  
KEL-1551

DATE INFO REC'D : 25 March - 7 April 1947  
PAGES : 2

SUBJECT : EQUAL: Henry ROBINSON and Klara SCHABBEL

NOTE: Source of the information below is Manfred ROEDER, chief prosecutor of the Reichskriegsgericht (highest army court) EQUAL trial and judge in two preliminary trials of persons connected with EQUAL's Belgian and French branches. He was not, however, directly concerned with ROBINSON's trial (see para 4).

1. Klara SCHABBEL, born in 1900, lived with her aged mother on a small property in Strausberg, one of Berlin's eastern suburbs. She enjoyed an excellent reputation among her neighbors, who testified that she lived a quiet, unobtrusive life. She had worked for the Wertheim department store (later Awag), Berlin, for 18 years, starting as a sales girl and eventually becoming head of a department. In 1919 she became Robinson's mistress, and around 1921 gave birth to his son, known as Victor SCHABBEL.

Field Comment: Date of information of this paragraph seems to be as of 1942.

2. Klara SCHABBEL testified that she met ROBINSON in Berlin in 1919. Although he spoke excellent German, she did not think that he was a German. During the late 1920's ROBINSON and SCHABBEL made two trips to Russia together, using Intourist facilities. ROBINSON always seemed to have enough money, and although occasionally two years passed without word from him, SCHABBEL always received funds from him for Victor's education. During the early 1930's ROBINSON lived in Switzerland, and in 1937 or 1938 he invited Victor to Paris, where the two spent an entire summer together. Klara SCHABBEL believed that ROBINSON lived near Boulevard Haussmann, next to a large department store. As far as Victor could judge, ROBINSON spoke excellent French. Neither mother nor son excluded the possibility that ROBINSON was a Russian; however, the question of his origin was never clarified. Klara SCHABBEL herself met ROBINSON only once after 1933, probably at the Basel (Switzerland) railway station. She last heard from ROBINSON in 1940, when she received some money from him.

Source Comment: Source does not remember the date of Klara's and ROBINSON's meeting.

Field Comment: Klara SCHABBEL's testimony referred to above seems to have been given at the Reichskriegsgericht trial in 1942 of members of EQUAL's German branch.

3. Klara SCHABBEL was sentenced to death, but her mother was not prosecuted. Shortly before the trial, Victor SCHABBEL had been so seriously injured, Source thinks in Crimea, that he could not be interrogated or called to testify. As far as Source can remember, he was not prosecuted.

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Field Comment: The trial referred to above again seems to be the Reichskriegsgericht trial, 1942. The original text of the last sentence of the above paragraph read "...nothing was done against Victor SCHABBEL."

Henri

4. ROBINSON was tried before the Feldgericht z.b.V. in June-July 1943, Source thinks in Paris. The Feldgericht z.b.V. was formed during the fall of 1942 by the Luftwaffe judicial department to handle unusual cases, particularly those which extended through several Luftgaue (Luftwaffe areas). The Gerichtsherr (officer in charge) was General der Flieger KASTNER-KIRDORF, who, Source stated, committed suicide shortly before VE-Day. Source does not remember the names of either prosecutor or judge, but stated that Kriegsgerichtsräte (judge advocates) GUTHARDT and FALKENBERG had probably prepared the case for the prosecution.

Source Comment: According to information which Source received while interned, GUTHARDT is working in either an antique shop or book store in Heidelberg. FALKENBERG was said to be in the Soviet Zone.

Field Comment: Efforts are being made to locate GUTHARDT.

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